

adult male of this species shot at Marblehead on December 29th, 1900." This statement is not quite correct for I have *both* wings of the Marblehead bird and they indicate plainly that it was not more than six or seven months old when killed, being essentially like those of a female Widgeon and wholly without the white patches which, according to Millais, are sometimes shown by the male soon after the close of his first winter and invariably assumed by him before the end of his second autumn; after which he never lacks them at any season,—even when masquerading, for a brief time in late summer, in the subdued garb so generally like that of his mate and so appropriately termed his "eclipse" plumage.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Snow Geese in Massachusetts.—The seaboard of eastern Massachusetts was once visited regularly by considerable numbers of Snow Geese, if we may credit the testimony of certain early Colonial writers. Thus Wood, referring to the region about Lynn and to a period extending from 1629 to 1633, says they came "in great flockes about Michelmas" and after remaining six weeks, fled "to the Southward, returning in March and staying six weeks more" before continuing their spring migration northward. Just when they discontinued this practise is not definitely known but it was probably abandoned long before the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. During the past fifty years or more they seem to have occurred only at infrequent intervals and, as a rule, singly, although Dr. Townsend reports¹ that as lately as November, 1903, Mr. W. H. Vivian "saw a flock of about fifty white birds resting on the beach at Ipswich" Massachusetts. "He thought at first they were gulls, but they got up and flew off honking and he saw that they were white geese."

In view of some of the facts just mentioned I was not less surprised than interested to learn that Mr. M. Abbott Frazar had seen a large flock of Snow Geese at Townsend, Massachusetts, on April 13, 1908. He has written me two letters concerning them, from which, with his kind permission, I now make the following extracts, changing or transposing a word or two here or there:—

"I heard the geese making a tremendous noise in the distance and soon caught sight of them about a mile away, coming towards me and flying in a compact bunch, not in V-shape. They were all calling and acting as if lost or badly scared. They passed directly over my head not seventy yards up. There were at least seventy-five and more likely one hundred in the flock, . . . and all were in full plumage. I looked them over carefully to make sure there were no Canadas in the lot and there was not a gray bird of any kind. I could not be in doubt about this for they had not passed my house over four hundred yards when they swung so that the light shone on them making them look like a snow bank in which a dark bird would

¹ C. W. Townsend, *Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts*, Mem. Nutt. Orn. Club, No. III, p. 147.

have been conspicuous. They approached me from the southwest, flying about northeast, and then swung around by the west finally disappearing over the point where I first saw them, after making a circle perhaps a mile in circumference. There is a small river, hardly more than fifty yards in width at the widest, just beyond where I lost sight of them. The nearest pond I know of is three miles away."

Inasmuch as Mr. Frazar is an ornithologist and sportsman of long and varied experience one may accept, without the slightest hesitation, his confident assurance that the birds he observed, under conditions so favorable for field identification, were Snow Geese. It must remain doubtful, however, to which form of this species they belonged, although the probabilities indicate the smaller bird *hyperborea*, that being of commoner occurrence in New England than its larger subspecies, *nivalis*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Another Ohio record for *Oidemia deglandi*.—Among a number of birds which I recently received from the Ohio State University in exchange for my collection of mammals there is a female of this species (*Oidemia deglandi*), shot March 10, 1881, at the Licking County Reservoir in Ohio. Prof. L. Jones, in his Catalogue, mentions the two specimens recorded by Dr. Wheaton and two specimens in the Oberlin Museum. Dawson and I recorded a fifth specimen shot in 1881 in Sandusky Bay. This present specimen then makes the sixth record for the State of Ohio. As Dawson had the collection of the Ohio State University at his elbow when writing his book, it is certainly peculiar that he should have overlooked this specimen and there may be perhaps other specimens in this collection not yet brought to light.—W. F. HENNINGER, *New Bremen, Ohio.*

The Masked Duck — A Correction.—In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXV, No. 4, page 472, will be found a note by me on the capture of a Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*) in Chatham Co., Ga., on Oct. 5, 1906. The capture was reported to me by Mr. G. R. Rossignol, Jr. (in whose possession it was) and Prof. W. J. Hoxie, another Savannah ornithologist and I had full faith in the judgment of these gentlemen. However, since writing said note I have visited Savannah and had the pleasure of examining the collections of each and was both surprised and disappointed to find that they were mistaken in this specimen. It is, without doubt, a Lesser Scaup, and they were misled by rust colored stains on its breast and belly.

While these have every appearance of being caused by grease, Prof. Hoxie is now of the opinion that it is from some compound of iron in the water frequented by the bird, as he states that he has since observed it in a less degree on other specimens. I deeply regret that the error was made and my note written.—ISAAC F. ARNOW, *St. Marys, Ga.*

The Little Blue Heron in New Jersey.—In glancing over the January issue of 'The Auk,' I noticed Mr. Reginald Heber Howe's note on the occurrence of the Little Blue Heron in New Jersey and the question he raised